

Pagham Harbour Contract Management Meeting

Wednesday 8 July 2015

Present

- Charlotte Weller, Countryside Services Manager (chair)
- Cllr Tony Sutcliffe, WSCC
- Tim Callaway, Pagham Harbour Interim Site Manager
- Adrian Thomas, RSPB Project Manager

1. **Apologies.** None.

2. **Welcome and introductions**

3. **Notes of last meeting**

Outstanding actions:

- Management of the North Wall now it is known to be in unknown ownership – WSCC confirmed that it retains responsibility for the maintenance of the public right of way although RSPB might at times do work on WSCC's behalf in collaboration with the WSCC PROW Officer.
- It is understood that only an organisation with 20 years proven interest in the North Wall could possibly seek to claim ownership, so it must be assumed that the land will remain in unknown ownership for the time being, as this applies only to EA and WSCC.
- EA large board at entrance to Harbour – **ACTION: RSPB to check if it has been removed by EA yet.**
- Jetskis are now considered vessels, which makes it technically legitimate for them to exercise the right of navigation in the harbour. However, all the restrictions regarding launching and landing still apply, and there are strict laws governing the disturbance of wildlife within a Special Protection Area. References to jetskis have been removed from the Code of Conduct already. It is understood the number of incidents involving jetskis in the Harbour is very low so it was agreed to continue to monitor the situation and if the matter becomes a concern, revisit the Code of Conduct then. The general public were reminded at the last Communities Forum to report any incidents to the team.

4. **Annual report**

The RSPB presented their annual report for 2014-15.

The highlights were noted:

- Highest breeding population of Little Terns for 30 years, the most important breeding species in the Harbour
- An increase in the number of volunteers

The RSPB also highlighted the problems that had been faced in trying to deliver uplift to the standards of the visitor facilities on the old landfill site at Sidlesham Ferry, where the issue has been who is liable for the content of the landfill should it be disturbed in any way. The RSPB is confident that the issues are now close to being addressed, and that progress should now begin to gain momentum.

WSCC expressed their comfort with the reasons for the delay and the efforts the RSPB had undertaken to resolve those issues. WSCC is pleased to see that the right level of RSPB resources were being allocated to deliver on the uplift promises. CW explained that there was no requirement for the RSPB to spend the uplift money from WSCC in the year it is given, but that it would welcome the RSPB producing a forward plan of when it plans to spend the money and on what. With good progress having been made, the RSPB will be in a position to do this by the next meeting.

The annual report will be presented to the Local Communities Forum on 20 July and will then be made available on the RSPB website.

5. Communities Forum

The Agenda for the forthcoming Forum (20 July) was agreed:

- Introduction from RSPB
- Cllr Sutcliffe to then take the chair
- Presentation of the annual report 2014-15
- Update April 2015 to present and forthcoming activities
- Redeclaration
- Any other relevant issues that are requested by the public in advance of the meeting.

6. Redeclaration

CW gave an update regarding the process towards redeclaration of the LNR.

Pagham Beach Holdings Limited is not minded to signing a new tripartite LNR agreement but their land can still be included in the revised LNR as the existing management agreement is extant and WSCC has a legal interest in the land.

Therefore, once WSCC has the formal approval from Natural England, the Redeclaration can be signed. A notice in the local press will be published once this has been done.

7. Finance

CW confirmed that all payments are progressing without problem.

8. AOB

- Byelaw revision likely to begin in the autumn. It will involve wide consultation and take some time to complete.
- The Environmental and Community Services Select Committee has asked that CW attends their November meeting to update on progress at Pagham Harbour. AT confirmed that the RSPB is very happy to attend that meeting.